



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black



Fort Riley and surrounding communities worked to enhance life for military families.

Fort Riley Post

Troop deployments curtailed sports activities on post, but not team enthusiasm.

A Post Special Edition: 2004 – The Year in Review

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Friday, January 7, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Melissa Skidmore spots her husband, Command Sgt. Maj. David Skidmore, command sergeant major, Task Force, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, as he enters Hanger 817 Feb. 27. More than 600 Soldiers returned to Fort Riley that week after serving overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for nearly one year. *Post/Skidmore*



Sgt. Raymond Montez shoots a laser at a the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, or SIDNE, driven by Spc. David Schrader at 2nd Bn., 34th Armor's Battalion Safety Day July 27. This new training aid is part of a Soldier and Family Support Center safety awareness program. *Post/Blackmon*



A landscaped plot in Junction City's Heritage Park displays white crosses bearing the names and photos of Fort Riley Soldiers killed in Iraq. The Flint Hills Rotary Club built the crosses in May and sponsored the plot to honor the fallen Soldiers. The plot is near the Kansas Vietnam Veterans Memorial also in Heritage Park. *Post/Heronemus*

The Year:

Troop duty in Iraq dominated news in the Post and local newspapers during 2004. The Devil Brigade of the Big Red One, the Bulldog Brigade of the 1st Armored Cavalry Division, the 937th Engineer Group, the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) and other military police and support elements based at Fort Riley spent part of the year in Iraq supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

When they weren't there, Soldiers in those units were training to go back. Some actually came home and deployed again during the year.

Thousands of Army Reserves and National Guard Soldiers spent time at Fort Riley training for their own tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While Soldiers trained to fight insurgents in southwest Asia, permanent staff at Fort Riley trained to fight other emergencies, such as a devastating tornado or a hazardous materials spill, that could affect workers and families on post.

Cooperation between Fort Riley and surrounding communities became more important as troop deployments affected local economies and the announcement of an additional brigade coming to Fort Riley emphasized the need for family housing.



Spc. Ronald Wilson competes in the Director's Cup competition at the U.S. Cavalry Association's national competition on post Sept. 23-26. *Post/Blackmon*



After removing the victim, played by MEDDAC Spc. Gregg Mouritzen, from the hazardous material spill site, firefighters hose him down as part of the Aug. 26 exercise. *Post/Blackmon*

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





In Iraq in 2004:



Co. A, 1st Eng. Bn. Photo

Munitions searches

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion, uncover a cache of artillery and mortar rounds during a search reported in the April 2 Post.



82nd Med. Co. (AA)/Ore

Bee invasion

Flight Medic Sgt. David McIntyre leans in for a closer look at the docile swarm of bees that temporarily attached itself to a sunshade in the 82nd Medical Company base in Iraq. The docile invasion was reported in the April 2 Post. See page 4.



1st BCT/Jasper

Visits from home

Above: Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley visits Staff Sgt. Cory Kozielecki (left), Co. B, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, and Col. "Buck" Connor, 1st BCT commander, at an observation post in Ramadi, Iraq, as reported in the July 9 Post.

Below: 3rd Brigade Combat Team spouses get news of redeployment dates for their loved ones during a video teleconference from Iraq, reported in the Feb. 6 Post.



19th PAD/Wood

Some gave all

Post loses 23 Soldiers in 2004 War on Global Terrorism

Fort Riley memorialized the ultimate sacrifice of Soldiers Oct. 2, during a mid-morning ceremony that was part of the post Open House and Apple Day celebration.

The new Global War on Terrorism Memorial erected beside Cavalry Parade Field includes two black columns standing on a pentagram base representing the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon attacked by terrorists That attack precipitated the U.S. Global War on Terrorism.

Forty-five names are engraved into the two black stones - the names 42 Fort Riley Soldiers and three Reserve component Soldiers of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) who had died fighting in the Global War on Terrorism up to that date.

The monument's pentagram base bears a plaque with the inscription of Archibald MacLeish's poem, "The Young Dead Soldiers."

Fort Riley lost the following Soldiers to the U.S. Global War on Terrorism during 2004:

Jan. 1: Sgt. Dennis A. Corral, 33, of Kearney, Neb., died in Baghdad, Iraq. Corral was assigned to Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He joined the Army in January 1997 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2003. He was assigned to the unit as supply sergeant and deployed to Iraq in December 2003.

Corral was in a convoy going to the Baghdad International Airport when his vehicle went out of control and rolled over.

Jan. 27: Three Fort Riley Soldiers were killed in an improvised explosive device attack in Khalidiyah, east of Ar Ramadi. The Soldiers, assigned to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, were:

Cpt. Matthew J. August, 28, of Rhode Island. He commanded Company B. He joined the Army in May 1997 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since June 2002.

Sgt. 1st Class James T. Hoffman, 41, of Whitesburg, Ky., Company B's first sergeant. He joined the Army in November 1984 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since November 2001.

Sgt. Travis A. Moothart, 23, of Brownsville, Ore. Moothart was assigned to the engineer battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company as a light wheeled vehicle repairman. He joined the Army in April 2000 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2001.

Jan. 29: Two Fort Riley Soldiers died. They were: Staff Sgt. Sean C. Landrus, 31, of Thompson, Ohio, died at the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq, of wounds he received in the Jan. 27 attack. Landrus was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, as a combat engineer. He joined the Army in January 1996 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 1999.

Pvt. Luis Moreno, 19, of Bronx, N.Y., died at Lakenheath Medical Treatment Facility in the United Kingdom of wounds he received Jan. 23, in Baghdad, Iraq. Moreno was assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He joined the Army in January 2003 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2003. He was a cannon crewmember and deployed to Iraq in September 2003. Moreno was shot while on dismounted guard at a gas station. He died of his injuries.

Feb. 19: Two Fort Riley Soldiers died of injuries sustained from small arms fire and an improvised explosive device attack near Khalidiyah, Iraq. The Soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Killed were:

Second Lt. Jeffrey C. Graham, 24, of Elizabethtown, Ky., a platoon leader for Company C. He joined the Army in May 2003 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since October 2003. Graham was deployed to Iraq in November 2003.

Spc. Roger G. Ling, 20, of Douglaston, N.Y., an armor crewman in Company C. He joined the Army in November 2001 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since May 2002. Ling deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

March 11: Two Fort Riley Soldiers were killed when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Fallujah, Iraq. The Soldiers were assigned to 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. They were:

Staff Sgt. Joe L. Dunigan Jr., 37, of Belton, Texas, a section leader for Company B. He joined the Army in October 1992 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since February 2002. He also was stationed at Fort Riley from 1995 to 1998. Dunigan deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Spc. Christopher K. Hill, 26, of Ventura, Calif., an infantryman in Headquarters and Headquarters Company. He served on active duty from September 1998 to August 2002. He rejoined the Army and was stationed at Fort Riley in April 2003. Hill deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

March 31: Five Fort Riley Soldiers serving with the First Marine Expeditionary Force were killed as a result of enemy action in the Al Anbar province while conducting security and stability operations. The Soldiers were assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Killed were:

First Lt. Doyle M. Huftedler, 25, of Abilene, Texas, was a platoon leader. He joined the Army in August 2002 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since March 2003.

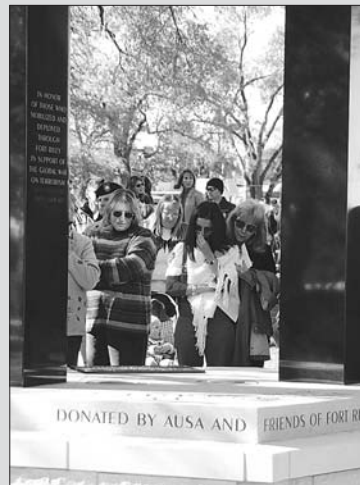
Spc. Sean R. Mitchell, 24, of Youngsville, Pa., joined the Army in November 1999 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since April 2000.

Spc. Michael G. Karr Jr., 23, of San Antonio, Texas, joined the Army in June 2002 as a health care specialist and had been stationed at Fort Riley since January 2003.

Pfc. Cleston C. Raney, 20, of Rupert, Idaho, joined the Army in November 2002 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since April 2003.

Pvt. Brandon L. Davis, 20, of Cumberland, Md., joined the Army in February 2003 as a combat engineer and had been stationed at Fort Riley since June 2003.

All five Soldiers deployed to Iraq in September 2003.



Post/Bender

Family members and friends of fallen Fort Riley Soldiers gather at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. The monument was dedicated in a ceremony on Saturday during Open House/Apple Day.

April 14: Sgt. Christopher Ramirez, 34, McAllen, Texas, an infantryman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, died of injuries sustained during combat operations in Al Anbar Province. He joined the Army in August 1991 and had been assigned to Fort Riley since December 2001. It was his second assignment at Fort Riley. He deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

May 2: Capt. John E. Tipton, 32, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq. Tipton was the commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Tipton enlisted in the Army in August 1989 and served in Operation Desert Storm. He later completed officer training through the ROTC program at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate. He received his commission in 1995. Tipton had been stationed at Fort Riley since August 2000 and deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in September 2003. Tipton died as a result of wounds received in an explosion while he was conducting combat operations.

July 2: Second Lt. Brian D. Smith, 30, of McKinney, Texas, died in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when he was shot while conducting combat operations. Smith was a platoon leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He was commissioned into the Army in June 2003. Smith had been stationed at Fort Riley since December 2003 and deployed to Iraq in January 2004.

Aug. 13: 1st Lt. Neil A. Santoriello, 24, of Verona, Pa., died in Khalidiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his mounted reconnaissance patrol. Santoriello was a platoon leader for Company A, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He was commissioned in June 2002 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since March 2003. He deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Aug. 15: Sgt. Daniel M. Shepherd, 23, of Elyria, Ohio, died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when the vehicle he was traveling in hit an improvised explosive device. Shepherd was a Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle commander with Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. He enlisted in the Army in July 2000 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since December 2000. He deployed to Iraq in September 2003.

Aug. 16: Sgt. David M. Heath, 30, of La Porte, Ind., died near Sadr City, Iraq, when his patrol came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade attack. Heath was an infantryman with Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He enlisted in the Army in September 2001 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since March 2002. He deployed to Iraq in June 2004. He had a previous tour in Iraq in 2003.

Sept. 7: Spc. Yoe M. Aneiros, 20, of Newark, N.J., died near Sadr City, Iraq, during a rocket-propelled grenade attack. Aneiros was a loader with a tank crew assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He enlisted in the Army in September 2002. Aneiros had been stationed at Fort Riley since January 2003 and deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2004. Aneiros served a previous tour in Iraq in 2003.

Dec. 7: Capt. Mark Stubenhofer, 30, of Springfield, Va., commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry. He was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, by small arms fire during a dismounted patrol. He was commissioned in the Army in May 1996 and had been stationed at Fort Riley since March 2001. He deployed to Iraq in June 2004. It was his second tour to Iraq in two years.

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SCREEN MACHINE
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COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
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Iraq stayed uppermost in minds all year

Reported in the Jan. 9 Post:

AR RAMADI, Iraq – Soldiers of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, found themselves in when the Army Chief of Staff came to Camp Junction City for dinner.

"I turned around and there he was," said Sgt. Kael L. Brady, supply NCO, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade.

"He just came and sat down," said Sgt. Manuel Ortiz III, 1st BCT paralegal NCO.

He sat down and talked to us like he was one of the guys and had known us all his life, Brady recalled.

Reported in the Jan. 16 Post:

People frequenting Fort Riley noticed that the security personnel at main access control points were mainly civilians instead of Soldiers.

Akal Security, a contract security company in New Mexico, began overseeing most of the day-to-day operations of guard duty at Fort Riley's access control points Dec. 23. The company was awarded the \$12.8 million contract in September and had 90 days to be operational.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 127th Field Artillery and 568th Engineer Company had been providing the security at the access control points. Those Soldiers and Akal guards worked together for several days before Akal became the primary security provider.

...
ABU AL JEER, Iraq – Little by little, one tribe, one community at a time, the "Iron Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, were helping to make the dream of freedom and a better way of life a reality in the town of Abu Al Jeer.

The Iron Rangers worked to ensure a safe and secure environment for the people, said Capt. Jay Tobin, who was in charge of Civilian Military Operations for 1st Bn, 16th Inf.

"We want to create a free and democratic Iraq and we're not going to do it with any amount of ordinance. It means dialog, relationships and educating the public," said 1st Lt. Jeff E. Flach with CMO.

Reported in the Jan. 30 Post:

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The steady roundup of former Ba'ath Socialist Party members and Saddam Hussein loyalists continued with the Bulldog Brigade capturing seven of the 18 targets captured by the 1st Armored Division.

Units from the 3rd Brigade's 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery; 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor; 1st Battalion, 13th Armor; and 70th Engineer Battalion participated in the raids.

Items found included materials for making IEDs, large amounts of ammunition and weapons and some documents that indicate possible links to terrorist activity.

The brigade's reconnaissance troop confiscated several CD-ROMs containing U.S. airline regulatory information and a CD with the title "Pathway to Heaven - September 11th, 2001." Nearly 200 pounds of an unidentified drug in pill form also was seized.

AR RAMADI, Iraq – During a lightning fast raid Jan. 6, Soldiers of Battery B, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, stormed a house and captured a suspected leader of the resistance against coalition forces.

Reported in the Feb. 6 Post:

By the time Fort Riley had received enough snow to cause the post to close Feb. 2 to everyone except mission-essential personnel, Public Works crews had already been at work nearly 48 hours battling the storm.

Public Works personnel began working the roads around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, when the freezing rain began.

...
AR RAMADI, Iraq – Coalition forces operating in Iraq must consider many differences between their cultures and those of the people in Iraq, and that's when they may need to call on Team Lioness.

Team Lioness is a group of female Soldiers from 568th Combat Support Equipment, 1st Engineer Battalion, who support the combat arms units that do not have females assigned.

"When (1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, or 1st Battalion, 16th

Infantry) go out on raids, they are not allowed to search female civilians," explained Staff Sergeant Chuck Kelly of the 568th CSE. "(Team Lioness) has gone on about 95 percent of the missions, whether it's a raid or a (traffic control point)."

Reported in the Feb. 20 Post:

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Bulldog Brigade of the 1st Armored Division transferred authority of western Baghdad to the Blackjacks of 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, officially closing a chapter on the 3rd Brigade's participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom and starting a new one as the brigade prepared to move some of its units north to Taj.

...
AR RAMADI, Iraq – The mortar platoon of Task Force 1-34 Armor Regiment patrolled Civil Camp and Coolie Camp in their area of operations on a regular basis. The purpose of the patrols was to establish a relationship with the local Iraqi Police.

Reported in the Feb. 27 Post:

The first element – about 50 Soldiers – of the 937th Engineer Group returned to Fort Riley early Feb. 21, after completing its mission in Iraq.

The Soldiers deployed in February 2003. During the first months of the war, the engineers provided combat support to the 3rd Infantry Division as the division advanced into Baghdad.

During the latter half of its deployment, the 937th assessed, coordinated and developed plans for renovations of bases, garrisons and facilities for the Iraqi Army.

Reported in the March 5 Post:

BAGHDAD, Iraq – More than 250 students and teachers welcomed Soldiers, including members of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, at the grand opening of the Kalid Al-Walid elementary school in the Al-Yarmuk district of Baghdad Jan. 26.

The battalion's Soldiers and

Continued on Page 4



82nd Med. Co. (AA)/Montgomery

Black Hawks brighten children's day

An Iraqi National Guard captain gives a young girl a bag of toys and a smile at a Kurdish school near Kirkush, Iraq. He was distributing toys gathered by Soldiers of the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), as reported in the Oct. 15 Post.



82nd Airborne Div./French

Ending black marketeering

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stop a truck loaded with propane as a part of Operation Devil Siphon in an effort to end black market fuel sales in the Ar Ramadi area.

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE &
LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1x1.5 PRAIRIE JAN '05 TF

KINDER MUSIK
1 x 1"
Black Only
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COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 COTTONWOOD JAN. TF

FORT RILEY POST

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Unit missions demand more than fighting

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others of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army reserve unit from Abilene, Texas, worked to make the opening possible. Contract workers in the local community helped.

With a phone call, Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, leaped into action Feb. 22 in support of Operation United Defense '04, a nationwide drill to assess and unify homeland defense and disaster relief.

"Overall, the scenario involved a series of incidents across the United States all the way from Alaska to here in Texas," said Maj. Robert L. Menist, plans and operations officer, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Reported in the March 12 Post:

Just when Fort Riley had begun celebrating the return of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to Fort Riley, the prairie post bid farewell to another unit.

About 30 members of the 78th Military Police Detachment Forward (CID), held a deployment ceremony March 6, at the Soldier and Family Support Center. The detachment is being deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reported in the March 19 Post:

Real-world convoy and close-quarters marksmanship training with live ammunition taught 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) Soldiers in Kuwait how to take out enemy threats from a moving vehicle and close-quarters combat.

The training came in handy. A convoy of 82nd Medical Company Soldiers was attacked Feb. 27 while driving through Baghdad. The Soldiers sustained no injuries from the Improvised Explosive Device and only one Humvee belonging to an aviation brigade from Florida accompanying the Fort Riley unit sustained minor damage.

The convoy continued to its destination without further incident.

Reported in the March 26 Post:

About 500 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team returned to Fort Riley the previous week. They arrived in multiple groups throughout the week-end and into the early part of the week and were honored by short ceremonies reuniting them with their family and friends.

Reported in the April 2 Post:

AR RAMADI, Iraq – Despite the day's intense heat, a line of Soldiers trudged through flooded fields, sweeping the ground with mine detectors.

What could have been a scene from the Vietnam War unfolded in Iraq as Soldiers of Company A, 1st Engineer Battalion, made another search for enemy weapons caches near Ar Ramadi.

Daily cache sweeps of the local area have generated more success for the 1st Brigade Combat Team than anyone originally expected.

The Co. A Soldiers had uncovered more than 40,000 pounds of weapons and munitions in the Ar Ramadi area. Most recently, the unit uncovered 35 caches in a period of 22 successive days, earning the company Soldiers the nickname of "Cache Kings." Company A discovered plastic explosives, numerous AK-47 rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, surface-to-air missiles, anti-aircraft guns and mortars in the caches.

ABU AL JEER, Iraq – In a dusty barren village 40 kilometers west of Ar Ramadi, people have a new reason to smile – fresh water.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, worked with residents on a project that will ultimately deliver fresh water to the parched village.

The small village of Abu Al Jeer has been waiting for a water system to be built for the community for more than 35 years, said Sgt. 1st Class Ken M. Kavanagh, civilian military operations non-commissioned officer with 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT.

The 82nd Medical Company (AA) in Iraq was visited one Sunday morning by a swarm of bees.



USMC/Fitzgerald

Searching for stashed weapons

Spec. Antron T. Byrd, a combat engineer with 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, which was assigned to 1st Marine Division, searches farmland for illegal weapons caches. Byrd, a 20-year-old Soldier from St. Louis and other Soldiers of the 1st Engineer Battalion conducted such searches throughout the Al Anbar Province almost every day to rid Iraq of illegal weapons. The story was reported in the June 18 Post.

Around 10 a.m., Sgt. David McIntyre, a flight medic, was outside working on a construction project for the company when he felt something land on him.

"I felt a couple on my face, and I thought they were flies so I swatted at them," he said. "Then I turned around and saw them."

What he saw was thousands of honeybees swarming through the air in pursuit of a new home.

"This is a break off of an existing hive," said Rusty Oddo, vector control manager. "They probably came out of the orchard ... just outside the perimeter."

The queen bee landed and the bees formed a living hive around her to protect her.

Reported in the April 9 Post:

Chair drills that sharpened crew communication played a major role in four Soldiers being named the top guns of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, during a battalion awards ceremony March 31, in Barlow Theater.

Headquarters 66, the battalion commander's tank and crew, scored 969 points of a possible 1,000 points during Tank Table 8 qualifications. The crew consists of tank commander Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, gunner Sgt. James Peacock, driver Spec. Bryan Blanks and loader Pfc. Billy Alexander.

Ar Ramadi, Iraq – "ColdSteel" Soldiers of Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, walked on the wild side March 15 when they set out to clear a field of anti-tank mines planted more than a year before

Operation Iraqi Freedom started. Most active Army units seldom practice clearing a minefield. Combat engineers have long trained on ways to breach a minefield, but the notion of clearing one has, until recently, been considered a mission to accomplish after combat operations cease.

Reported in the April 16 Post:

Fort Riley may not seem like the most international post in the Army, but several members of the Fort Riley community were working to change that.

Lt. Col. Anthony D. Zabek and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael E. Meyer of the 924th Military Police Battalion traveled to South Africa in January for a week's mission.

Their visit was the first in what they hope will be many exchanges between the military police of both countries.

When 6-year-old Meghan Bryant saw her father, Capt. Davis Bryant of Company C, 125th Forward Support Battalion, standing in the formation across the aircraft hangar floor, it was the first time she had seen him in a year. It was all her mother, Melissa, could do to keep her from running out to greet him.

Then, the order came from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, for the Soldiers to rejoin their families.

Meghan shot out ahead of the more than 500 families and

friends gathered to welcome their Soldiers home and flew into her father's waiting arms. Right on her heels was sister, Katie.

Bryant and more than 300 Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, including their commander, Col. Russ Gold, returned to Fort Riley April 12.

Reported in the April 30 Post:

Fort Riley planned to soon boot up eArmyU, an online streamlined program to help Soldiers get the education they want.

In July 2000, the Army announced a new education

recruiting initiative called Army University Access. Online now referred to as eArmyU.

The online program offers Soldiers a streamlined portal approach to a wide variety of postsecondary degrees and technical certificates.

TALLAFAR, Iraq – Amidst mortar attacks, firefights at the front gate, drive-by shootings, and the ever-present danger of improvised explosive devices, a team of the 75th Division (Training Support) was training hundreds of soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces – in Iraq.

It's the first of four advisory

support teams from the division that will be part of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team.

The first team of Reserve Soldiers – led by Maj. Robert Chandler, CMAIT battalion advisory support team chief, and Master Sgt. Richard Howard, noncommissioned officer in charge – was in Tallafar, Iraq, doing a mission normally done by Special Forces Soldiers.

Reported in the May 14 Post:

Post emergency crews swarmed on Ellis Heights housing area May 6, after reports that an imaginary tornado had devastated the area and caused several casualties that morning.

The make-believe tornado hit about 9:30 a.m. and created havoc and human tragedy during its 15-minute stop on post. It supposedly damaged several homes and killed or injured 30 people.

Within minutes after the all-clear siren blared over post, emergency response personnel of the military police, Irwin Army Community Hospital, the American Red Cross and post fire department were rolling toward the pretend devastation. They worked for about three hours practicing what they would do if a tornado really struck the fort.

Reported in the May 21 Post:

TOPEKA – As Soldiers spread liberty and freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, Americans at home gathered to remember the civil liberties granted to U.S. children 50 years ago.

More than 5,000 people gathered May 17 to mark the grand opening of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka.

The crowd assembled in front of Monroe Elementary School as an array of speakers, including President George W. Bush, emphasized the importance of equal education.

Fort Riley's Commanding

Continued on Page 5

MANHATTAN AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3X10.5 MAT C

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
W orth the Wait/1-4, 5 & 7

STATE FARM INSURANCE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 CAR INS. AD 1/05 SS

KANSAS PRESS
2 x 2"
Black Only
National Guard/1-4, 5 & 7



Homecomings bring joy, tears

Continued from Page 4

General's Mounted Color Guard began the ceremony by parading the colors across the dignitary-filled stage. Spc. Christopher Conner from Summersville, Mo., carried a saber guarding the national colors as they passed Henderson Brown, U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

A piece of history rode horseback through part of Kansas May 5-11. Fort Riley's Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard re-enacted the historic ride that sent cavalry Soldiers from Fort Leavenworth to establish Fort Riley as part of the state's sesquicentennial observance.

The modern-day cavalymen received their special orders and a proclamation from Col. John Towers, Fort Leavenworth's garrison commander and delivered the proclamation to Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commander of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

About a dozen riders in the color guard traveled nearly 25 miles a day until they reached Fort Riley. The ride resembled what it would have been like to deliver such orders by a cavalry unit 150 years ago.

Reported in the May 27 Post:

Post planners said a roundabout at a major intersection on Custer Hill will ease traffic flow and reduce the possibility of accidents.

Initial preparatory construction began May 25. The entire project will tie up the intersection until August this year, said Alan Ingwersen of Public Works.

The project will cost about \$4.1 million. The prime contractor is MW Builders of Texas, who also are building post barracks.

Reported in the June 4 Post:

Members of the 1835th and 1908th Medical Detachments (Combat Stress Control) capped nine days of intensive training and months of preparation with a convoy live-fire exercise at Fort Riley May 25.

The units are preparing for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Both units specialize in treating combat stress on the front lines.

During income tax season, the Fort Riley Tax Center proved to be an excellent benefit for everyone in the Fort Riley community, based on statistics available.

The 2004 Fort Riley Tax Center opened on Jan. 21 and closed on April 23. During that time, the Tax Center's staff prepared and electronically filed 2003 federal and state tax returns for free.

During the 2003 tax season, the Tax Center served more than 3,800 soldiers, retirees and their family members. This free tax preparation service saved the Fort

Training can be a blast

A 1st Brigade Soldier connects a detonation chord to an explosive connected to a door May 25 to show how to be able to breach a door so other Soldiers have a clear pathway when clearing houses.

10th PAD



Riley community more than \$676,000 in the value of tax preparation services.

In addition, the Tax Center helped community members quickly receive more than \$6.7 million in tax refunds.

Several dignitaries helped cut a ribbon May 24, symbolically opening Fort Riley's new Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic on Custer Hill.

Actual construction began in August 2002.

The \$5.8 million clinic is the newest medical facility in Kansas. It provides primary healthcare for 24th Infantry Division (Mech) Soldiers and separate units located on Custer Hill.

Reported in the June 11 Post:

Moisture-wicking T-shirts, silk-weight underwear and black fleece bibs may sound like something people would see while shopping at the local lingerie store.

Grappling hooks, door rams and tomahawks sound like items from a medieval war movie.

Add the M249 Forward Rail System, the TA31F - 4X Advanced Combat Optical Gun Sight and the Modular Integrated Communications Helmet System and now it sounds like a scene from the movie, "Starship Troopers."

The common denominator is that it's all modern Army equipment and it was issued late in May to 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment Soldiers as a part of the Rapid Fielding Initiative.

Approximately 650 1st Bn., 41st Inf., Soldiers went through

various stations May 24 and 25 to pick up the new equipment before their scheduled deployment to

Reported in the June 18 Post:

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, deployed to Iraq a couple days following a June 15 ceremony to formally say good-bye to the 700-some Soldiers formed in Hangar 817 at Marshall Army Air Field.

The battalion returned last July from a deployment that moved its Soldiers into Iraq on March 21, 2003. For this deployment to Iraq, the unit will be attached to the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, from Fort Drum, N.Y.

AR RAMADI, Iraq — Engineers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team helped 1st Marine Division Marines uncover enemy weapons in their zone.

Army Spc. David J. Sieben couldn't count how many weapons cache searches he'd been on since arriving in Iraq in September.

The Carson City, Nev., Soldier said a large part of his battalion's responsibilities include the retrieval and destruction of illegal weapons that could be used against coalition forces or Iraqi citizens.

"In the past nine months, we've probably done well over 100 weapons cache searches," Sieben said. "It's become part of our daily lives."

Soldiers of the 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) and airmen from the U.S. Air Force's 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron/Civil Engi-

neers, Fire, helped train Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery, in medical evacuation and vehicle extraction procedures during a recent Friday afternoon.

A Black Hawk crew and firefighters taught the artillery troops how to work safely around the aircraft while loading and unloading casualties and how to set up a good landing zone. The trainers also demonstrated the types of equipment firefighters may employ to extricate soldiers from a vehicle after an accident.

Pilots of the 1st Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., unleashed a hail of lead on Fort Riley's Range 18 May 27 while validating the unit's new Apache helicopters.

After flying Cobra helicopters for many years, the unit began receiving the newer Apaches in 2002. May, however, was the first time the unit could test the helicopter's weapons systems, the first step to validating the pilots on the new helicopter.

Reported in the June 25 Post:

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston visited Fort Riley June 21 as part of his tour of Army posts after assuming the Army's top noncommissioned officer post.

Preston visited several sites on post, including the Old Bill statue on Cavalry Parade Field and the Soldier and Family Support Center on Custer Hill. He ate lunch at the Devil's Den dining facility with Fort Riley's command sergeants major and several other noncommissioned officers and enlisted Soldiers.

Construction on what some have called "the most advanced training facility ever available to Fort Riley" was under way in the training area. Post officials expect the \$26 million project will take three years to complete.

The Combined Arms Collective Training Facility will offer a state of the art method of learning how to conduct Military Operations in Urban Terrain.

Soldiers in the 300th Military Police Company participated in Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training June 16 in preparation for redeployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

KHALIDIYAH, Iraq — What was an empty dirt lot in the middle of a maze of brick and concrete homes would soon be the key to a small Iraqi community's promise of health care.

Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Soldiers of the Army's 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, broke ground on a new medical clinic in the Abu Fleis district of Khalidiyah, a city wedged between Fallujah and Ar Ramadi.

The project was slated to cost \$39,800 for construction and another \$7,500 for furnishings. It was estimated the project would be complete Aug. 24. When it's completed, the clinic will serve nearly 4,000 Iraqis from about 700 different families.

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — Iraqi citizens in one borough of Ar Ramadi recently got a boost in the availability of medical care, thanks to Soldiers and Marines serving in the area.

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Marines of the 3rd Civil Affairs Group celebrated the opening of a medical clinic in the city's 5K district.

Reported in the July 1 Post:

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, learned how to keep from drowning June 9-10.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company scheduled the drown-proofing classes at Eyster Pool as part of its preparation for deployment to Iraq in the fall.

The training requires Soldiers to jump into the water while wearing their uniforms and Load Bearing Equipment.

When a Soldier jumps into the water, he sinks to the bottom of

Continued on Page 6

Some faces change:

Fort Riley welcomed several new leaders and said farewell to others in 2004:

In May:

Col. Thomas Luebker, the assistant division commander for support, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, retired.

In June:

Col. Michael Okita succeeded Col. Richard McPhee as chief of staff, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley. McPhee moved to a position as special assistant to the commanding general, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), at Fort Jackson, S.C., where he would oversee training and readiness of the division's three National Guard brigades.

Lt. Col. Donn Grimes succeeded Col. Larry Hanson as

commander of the Dental Activity at Fort Riley.

Col. Michael Courts succeeded Col. Gaspar Gulotta as commander of 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support).

Col. David Bishop succeeded Col. Russell Gold as commander, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Col. Marilyn Brooks succeeded Col. Julie Martin as commander, Medical Activity and Irwin Army Community Hospital.

In November:

Col. Bart Howard succeeded Col. "Buck" Connor as commander, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. Connor assumed responsibilities as assistant division commander for training, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech).

US ARMY REENLISTMENT-ARMED FOR
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75th Div. (TS) Photo

Training goes on despite weather

A blinding February snowstorm and bitterly cold temperatures did not stop trainers of 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), from performing their mission of mobilizing and validating Army reserve Soldiers for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Above, 75th Division Master Sgt. Cecilia Lynch (right) instructs an Army reserve Soldier where to place a wounded civilian portrayed by Capt. Craig Hickerson during mobilization training at Fort Riley. Lt. Col. Mark Asbury, commander of 2nd Battalion, 383rd Regiment, 3rd Bde., 75th Div. (TS), said the reservists of the 3rd Bde. are "the dependable trainers who the Army reserve leadership can turn to to get right answers and right products" needed to successfully travel the road to readiness. This story appeared in the Feb. 27 Post.





Soldiers train specifically for Iraq duty

Continued from Page 5

the eight-foot pool, comes back to the surface, takes a breath and drops back down to the bottom. Shrout explained. "From there, he is going to detach all of his equipment and swim to the other side of the pool, a distance of 15 to 20 meters."

Military operations in urban terrain were an increasing worry for Soldiers of all occupations.

The Fort Riley Special Reaction Team, an elite group of military policemen designed to react to hostage situations, had been training the Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, for such operations.

Though the unit is an armor battalion, commanders speculate that their mission will change in the event of an eventual deployment to Iraq.

"These Soldiers are all tankers, so they're going to go over and be cross-trained for something that is not their primary mission," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Thrush, SRT member.

Reported in the July 17 Post:

CAMP JUNCTION CITY, Iraq — 1st Engineer Battalion recognized two of its combat engineers for winning the annual Engineer Soldier of the Year (Super Sappers) and the Army Combat Engineer Sergeants competition.

Sgt. Edward Hynes of Company B won the ACES award for finishing first in squad-level leadership competition.

Spc. Dustin Kelly of Company A won the Super Sappers competition for junior enlisted Soldiers. The Engineers conducted the event on Camp Junction City near Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Reported in the July 23 Post:

Even though it was the middle of the night, the Soldiers of Fort Riley's 1st Maintenance Company were hard at work in the 100-degree heat of Iraq's desert. The only sound that broke the clacking of the wrenches was the rumble and rev of a High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle engine. Spc. Brenton Hobbs had just rebuilt.

It was their 100th rebuilt HMMWV engine since deploying to Iraq in September 2003, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Reported in the July 30 Post:

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A number of Army installations, including Fort Riley, will grow by 3,400 Soldiers in the next few years as a result of decisions on where new brigade combat teams/units of action will be temporarily based, according to senior Army officials.

Permanent locations will be decided during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, also known as BRAC, the officials said.

Reported in the Aug 6 Post:

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — Marines and Soldiers came together to light the skies and shake the ground with an artillery exercise in Iraq July 29.

Marines and Army forward observers teamed up to rain steel on targets, courtesy of the Army's artillery at Camp Ramadi.

Eighteen ROTC and 18 USMA cadets came to Fort Riley for three to four weeks as part of the Cadet Troop Leader Training Program. They were assigned to various units on post and shadowed active duty lieutenants to learn more about life in the Army.

After seven major rail loading operations in the previous 18 months, Soldiers of the 2nd Bat-



Post/Blackmon

Air, ground forces combine fire power

Apache helicopters provide support to ground troops during a Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise Sept. 1. The exercise tested Fort Riley Soldiers' abilities to coordinate attacks on targets by the helicopters, Air Force jets, Army Abrams tanks and other ground elements.

tion, 34th Armor, found themselves in familiar territory at Fort Riley July 30 - loading again.

It took the Soldiers about four hours to load 147 vehicles onto 65 railcars. The equipment will be hauled to Fort Polk, La., for use in battalion training exercises at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

Reported in the Aug 13 Post:

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — One of the saving graces for Marines fighting terrorists in and around Ramadi came dressed in Army uniforms.

They were the Soldiers of Medical Company C, 101st Forward Support Battalion, based at Fort Riley. These Soldiers provided medical care ranging from runny noses to mass casualties caused by deadly explosions.

FORT RILEY — When Riley's reopened Aug. 9, about the only aspect that had not changed was the building's location.

Riley's now features skylights running down the middle of the building, more meeting spaces and a larger kitchen.

It still has a new building smell of newly cut wood and faint traces of cleaning solution. The building's 204 windows flood the rooms with natural light.

Renovation took 18 months and about \$5.5 million — about \$1 million more than was estimated in March.

Army engineers went to the field the end of July to turn seven

acres of the post's bottom land into a patch of ground resembling some U.S. bases in Iraq.

Their task: Scrape the vegetation off a piece of ground, cover it with gravel, surround it with three strands of concertina wire and build 8-foot berms of dirt inside the concertina wire and all the way around the plot. Their goal: To create a Theater Certification Training Site simulating a base U.S. Soldiers serve in while deployed to Iraq.

Reported in the Aug. 20 Post:

Nearly 3,400 Soldiers from the 6th Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, will be stationed at Fort Riley in fiscal year 2006.

To accommodate this new unit of action brigade, \$80 million in construction projects has been approved for Fort Riley, Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., announced July 30.

The money will be used for a combination of barracks, administrative buildings, maintenance and dining facilities and tactical vehicle parking areas is tentatively slated for the Camp Funston area.

CAMP CUERVO, Baghdad, Iraq — The newly arrived Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, conducted a right-seat ride with troopers of 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Col. Michael Okita, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley chief of staff, thanked the returning 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Soldiers for their service in Iraq.

Reported in the Sept. 2 Post:

A large barrel of acid fell on the Fort Riley Soldier unloading it Aug. 26. The barrel broke the Soldier's leg and the corrosive contents spilled out, drenching him.

A co-worker ran over to help but fumes from the toxic chemical overwhelmed him and he passed out before he could help.

That exercise scenario played out Aug. 26 as Fort Riley's fire department, emergency medical services and environmental services staffs ran through the hazardous material drill to test their response systems.

Reported in the Sept. 24 Post:

Paintball terrorists ambushed a convoy Sept. 15 as part of a training exercise on Fort Riley.

First Lt. Eric Corbett, evac platoon leader for Company C, 125th Forward Support Battalion, called Skylar Anderson, manager of Koehn Extreme Sports in Manhattan looking for assistance. Anderson then made a phone call to fellow paintballer Jake Pullen.

Nine paintballers and two 125th FSB Soldiers dispersed in small clusters along a road at the Fort Riley training area the day of the planned attack. Hiding in var-

ious spots, the group's job was to launch a surprise attack on a convoy of 25 Soldiers from 125th FSB and two Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.

As the convoy rolled by, one of the terrorists laid his weapon on the ground and held up a baby doll and a bouquet of flowers, screaming, "I love America!" He said he wanted to do something to get them not to shoot at him so he could then launch a surprise attack.

Reported in the Oct. 1 Post:

About 50 horseback riders saddled up this past weekend at the former home of the Army's cavalry school for a national competition of speed, skill and strategy.

The riders battled for blue ribbons at the third annual National Cavalry Competition Sept. 24-26 — the first time Fort Riley has hosted the event.

Fort Riley snagged 15 of the National Cavalry Competition's 50 awards during the weekend cavalry competition.

The eight participating members of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard won 13 awards, including the Military Horse Award given to the outstanding active duty unit participating.

The color guard's new commander, Capt. Cayla Slusher, took over Sept. 29 and placed second in level II jumping and third in

Continued on Page 7

SALINA POWERSPORT
3 x 2.5"
Black Only
3x2.5 General Ad 1/7

Dr. Fisher
3 x 10.5"
Black Only

SUSAN RELIGA MARKETING SERVICE
2 x 5"
Black Only
2x5 SUSAN RELIGA POST

MILITARY OUTLET
3 x 3"
Black Only
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Post, area learn of planned expansions

Continued from Page 6

level III military equitation.

Seven-year-old Phillip Shriver received a new guardian angel. It's a little bear angel with red, white and blue wings – wearing a helmet.

Shriver, who suffers a life-threatening illness – leukemia, received the memento from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski, during the boy's visit to Fort Riley Sept. 20.

Shriver spent the day living his dream of being a Soldier – if only for a day. Fort Riley and the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Kansas granted Shriver's wish.

Reported in the Oct. 7 Post:

Several members of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, at Fort Riley recently spent time fighting each other.

With the assistance of instructors Avi Nardia of Israel and John Castillo of Wichita, the Soldiers learned aspects of hand-to-hand on-the-ground defense in jiu-jitsu style and in close-quarter battle – Israeli style.

Nardia taught hand-to-hand combat to the Israeli Army for 24 years and has taught U.S. Army personnel and Marines in recent years.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, got some help ironing out their individual and leadership tasks when their convoy was attacked by colored pop-up targets and a five-ton truck some were riding in "broke down."

About 110 Soldiers took part in the live-fire convoy exercises Sept. 28 at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Fort Riley. The different colored pop-up targets simulated aggressors and non-combatants that should not be shot at.

Performance in earlier training earned 10 Soldiers of the 977th Military Police Company the chance to create a big boom on



Post/Skidmore

CBS interviews brothers

CBS Evening News Reporter Cynthia Bowers interviews the Scherzberg brothers – (from left) Matt, Brett, Jeff and Justin – and their mother, Connie, July 7. In the background is Marty Scherzberg, the brothers' father. The four Nebraska brothers mobilized at the same time with the same unit to serve in the Global War on Terrorism and were training at Fort Riley.

Fort Riley's Range 15 Sept. 23.

Two Soldiers in each of the company's five platoons set and detonated an M18A1 Claymore mine each.

The MP unit had not trained with Claymores since returning from Iraq nearly a year earlier.

Reported in the Oct. 15 Post:

The Defense Authorization Conference Report approved Oct. 10 by the U.S. Senate and passed on to the president contains Kansas projects totaling more than \$1 billion.

After the president signed the legislation, Fort Riley would receive \$122.5 million for five projects, including construction of 120 new housing units.

Other components of the bill included a 3.5 percent permanent pay increase for military personnel; made permanent the rate for imminent danger pay at \$225 per month; increased the family separation allowance to \$250 per month; and called for changes in the military retirees' benefits pro-

grams.

Fort Riley and surrounding communities were feeling the effects of influenza vaccine shortages as the flu season neared.

The United States expected to receive only half of its originally anticipated flu vaccine doses this year because British authorities suspended the license of Chiron Corporation on Oct. 5 for the next three months.

A Medical Department Activity spokesperson at Fort Riley said post medical officials had received a small shipment of vaccine from Aventis Pasteur Inc. and that vaccinations were being given based guidance from the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Originally, medical officials at Fort Riley were expecting a combined shipment from the two flu vaccine manufacturers.

Reported in the Oct. 22 Post:

AL THAWRA DISTRICT, Baghdad, Iraq – Although Sol-

diers usually patrol a southern portion of Baghdad's slum commonly called Sadr City searching for insurgent activity of the Muqtada militia, they did something entirely different on Oct. 6 – they handed out chickens.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, passed out 300 frozen chickens to residents along a road in their sector that is notoriously the poorest area in Baghdad.

"We distributed the 300 chickens we had in less than half an hour," said 1st Lt. David Riggs, a platoon leader with Company B, and a Dixie, Tenn., native.

As soon as one Soldier opened a box and said, "chicken," he was swarmed by Iraqi children.

About 120 977th Military Police Company Soldiers at Fort Riley deployed to Iraq Oct. 18 to relieve the 339th Military Police Company7 based in Davenport, Iowa.

Nearly 70 percent of the 977th Soldiers, nicknamed the Raiders, will conduct detainee operations and establish fixed security operations in the Baghdad area. The unit was expected to be gone for six months on its second tour in Iraq in 18 months. The earlier tour ran from April 2003 to April 2004.

Reported in the Oct. 29 Post:

Irwin Army Community Hospital and 70th Engineer Battalion Soldiers completed semi-annual combat medic skills validation Testing Sept. 20-22.

This unit-level function consisted of various assessments, including trauma, medical and nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) scenarios.

Reported in the Nov. 5 Post:

Years of military service have chiseled deep lines on their faces. Several of the citizen-Soldiers graduated high school more than two decades ago. A few are close to drawing their Reserve retire-

ment pay.

But, these 40-something 295th Ordnance Company Army Reserve Soldiers aren't finished serving the United States. They have been mobilized to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in spite of their graying temples, wrinkles and eyeglasses.

One seasoned Soldier, 53-year-old Master Sgt. Keith Rollen, a senior ammunition inspector from Grand Island, Neb., said his 33 years of military service helped him assimilate cross-level transfers into the unit. Nearly 50 percent of the unit's manpower came by way of transfers.

Real estate contractors and developers visited Fort Riley Oct. 26 for a Residential Communities Initiative program site tour as the installation moves toward the August 2006 privatization of on-post family housing.

Col. John Simpson, garrison commander, said about 52 percent of Fort Riley Soldiers and their

families live on post. "Soldiers want to live on Fort Riley," he told those visiting for the site tour.

The intent of the RCI program, according to Larry McGee, director of Fort Riley's Public Works, is to have the Soldiers pay their Basic Allowance for Housing directly to the contractor. The contractor can then leverage those funds to make improvements to the existing quarters as well as constructing additional quarters "to help fill the gap of what the local economy may not be able to provide."

Soldiers living in government quarters forfeit their BAH and do not have to pay for utilities. Soldiers living off-post are paid BAH to offset rent and utilities costs, but the amount of BAH often does not totally cover those expenses.

More than 2,500 Soldiers and their families live in housing off Fort Riley.

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'Drop and give me 40'

Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley, completes 40 push-ups

after 7-year-old Phillip Shriver told him to "drop and give me 40." Shriver was on post Sept. 20, fulfilling his desire with the Make a Wish Foundation of Kansas to be a Soldier for a day.

Post/Skidmore



UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY
3 x 10.5"
Black only
3x10.5/Post: 12-10 & 1-7

USA DISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"

BLJR/3x10.5/January 2005



Year ends with impending deployments

Continued from Page 7

Reported in the Nov. 10 Post:

Four Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, achieved perfection Oct. 27.

Sgt. 1st Class Damon Darroch, Sgt. William Griffith, Pfc. Jason Ayala and Pfc. Jacob Braden shot a 1,000 score on Tank Table 8 during the battalion's gunnery training at the Multipurpose Range Complex.

Nobody could remember the last time a Fort Riley tank crew shot a 1,000, said Fort Riley tank master gunner, Sgt. 1st Class John Harris. "It's been at least 20 years, if not longer," he said.

Reported in the Nov. 19 Post:

Fort Riley and the Kaw and Pawnee Nations of Oklahoma renewed their Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act memorandum of agreement Nov. 9 during the post's observance of Native American Heritage Month.

The agreement provides for the return of all Native American cultural items, funerary and sacred objects discovered on the installation to lineal descendants or the culturally affiliated tribe.

Crystal Douglas, an archeologist representing the 2,700-plus members of the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma; Col. John A. Simpson, Fort Riley garrison commander; and George E. Howell, president of the nearly 3,000-member Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma,

signed the new agreement after the original document signed in 1999 hit its five-year sunset clause. The new agreement extends the NAGPRA partnership and details in advance how all remains and artifacts will be handled. It also eliminates a termination date for the agreement.

Reported in the Nov. 24 Post:

Fort Riley leaders, fellow Soldiers and friends saluted the 2003 and 2004 Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Year Nov. 18 during a formal dinner at Riley's Conference Center.

Staff Sgt. Mario A. Gomez, an ammo team chief with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, was named 2003 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Sgt. Mark A. Vallem was named 2003 Soldier of the Year. The 331st Signal Company Soldier was subsequently promoted to sergeant while serving in Iraq.

The two Soldiers deployed to Iraq before the post could arrange a dinner to honor them, so they joined the 2004 honorees at the dinner.

Two Medical Department Activity Soldiers earned the post's top honors for 2004. Staff Sgt. Gersom I. Jimenez was named Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Corporal Braden D. Nemecek was named Soldier of the Year.

Reported in the Dec. 3 Post:

Contract Services Inc., of Junc-



Post/Skidmore

A tribute to an 'adopted' Soldier

(L-R) Eighth-grade Grandview prep students Kathy Hanson and Marisa Tishman unveil a portrait of Staff Sgt. Sam Welden, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, during his welcome reception at the school in Boca Raton, Fla. Welden was adopted by the Boca Raton community and the school while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

tion City was tentatively awarded a five-year contract to provide logistical support services at Fort Riley. Post officials did not expect final decision on the contract until spring 2005.

The initial contract decision was reached based on a commercial activities study of the logistics support services operation of the Directorate of Logistics at Fort Riley that sought to determine the most economical way to provide those services.

Areas throughout Kansas

received a healthy dose of snow early in the week. About three inches fell on Fort Riley Nov. 29 and 30. In the surrounding area, snowfall totals ranged from more than three inches in Manhattan to some five inches in White City, according to the National Weather Service in Topeka.

Reported in the Dec. 17 Post:

For Riley boosted its security force Nov. 29 with 25 Department of the Army policemen, who began manning the Henry Avenue

access control point in the mornings.

"The long term plan is to integrate DA Police into the ACPs and eventually into law enforcement on the installation," said Lt. Col. Anthony D. Zabek Fort Riley's provost marshal and commander of the 924th Military Police Battalion.

Zabek said the installation's current security contractor, AKAL, will remain on the ACPs, but will eventually share the load of security with the fort's other law enforcement and security

forces.

"AKAL will remain on the ACPs as well as DA Police and, in some cases, MPs," Zabek said.

The Department of Defense has announced several large units scheduled for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom rotations scheduled to begin in mid-2005.

The troop list announced includes the 48th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Georgia Army National Guard, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), and the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley.

The first units deploying to Iraq were scheduled to arrive in mid-2005 and successive units would deploy at various times through mid-2006.

Reported in the Dec. 23 Post:

The Soldiers of the 380th MP Det. (CID) and the 48th MP Det. (CID) were in the midst of a training program at Camp Forsyth on post. The Nov. 29 to Dec. 23 train-up is in preparation for the Soldiers' upcoming deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Emotions ran high as friends and family gathered for a ceremony for the deployment of 120 Soldiers in the 24th Transportation Company, 541st Maintenance Battalion, with a ceremony in their honor Dec. 16.

The deployment marks the second time this unit will deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

DAILY UNION
6 x 13"
Black Only
POST SERVICE DIRECTORY



Fort Riley Community Life

A Post Special Edition: 2004 – The Year In Review

Friday, January 7, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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Martha Rodriguez dances during the Hispanic Heritage observance at Fort Riley Oct. 6 at Riley's Conference Center. The post's Equal Opportunity Office also coordinated observances of:

- Asian Pacific Heritage Month
- Native American Heritage
- Martin Luther King's birthday
- African American Month
- Days of Remembrance
- Women's Equality Day and Women's History Month

Post/Blackmon

Life goes on:

In spite of the increasing operations tempo of units training for duty in Iraq and then deploying for times up to and exceeding a year, community life continued as though family members weren't separated. Families, organizations on post, units and schools provided a wide range of activities and events to keep the homebound family members busy while Soldiers were deployed.

Stage performances provided a variety of diversions, from a "Battle of the Bands" sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, to a performance of *Macbeth* at Barlow Theater by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, to several Junction City Little Theatre and high school productions, to the 2004 Soldier Show at McCain Auditorium in Manhattan.

The Girl Scouts enjoyed a year of varied events and activities, including a "Thinking Day" that took them to several different countries described by troops in the council. The Boy Scouts learned late in the year that several units would need to find new sponsors in 2005, after a court decision reminded Defense Department organizations they could not officially sponsor Scout units.

Post clubs sponsored annual events just as they had in the past, including spring and Christmas bazaars, Apple Day and the post ghost tours.

The Enlisted Spouses' Club concentrated on increasing membership and sponsored a couple of special activities to promote the club and all it does for the Fort Riley community.

Post schools and some teachers earned special recognition for achievement and organized activities that promoted student wellness in the face of parent deployments as well as other social concerns, such as drug use prevention and awareness.

Higher education continued to receive a lot of command emphasis at Fort Riley, with semiannual graduation ceremonies presenting college degrees to a couple hundred Soldiers, family members and civilian employees who finished course work at one of the several college programs offered on post.



Jacob Hughes (left) and Steven Colbrove (right), both of Boy Scout Troop 86 in Washington, Kan., jump over the top of a climbing obstacle on the Fort Riley course during a May 1 camporee. Another scout begins to climb up the steps.



Girl Scouts from Junior Troop 536, wearing Greek costumes, reach for favors from one of many booths at the Girl Scout Thinking Day on Feb. 7.

19th PAD/Selmek



Robin Canuela, dressed in a striped prisoner's costume, tells a crowd the story of the "Triangle House" during the post's Ghost Tours Oct. 24.

Post/Hardesty



Operation Santa Claus Noncommissioned Officer In Charge Staff Sgt. Marcos Felan adjusts toys in a shopping cart as Pfc Richard Cook, left, volunteers Lyn Green (center) and Amanda Cook, discuss their purchases Nov. 30.

Post/Skidmore





Family life on post:



Post/Heronemus

Specialists teach kids

Spec. Nika Garcia (left) uses Anissa Salas' spread fingers to show Custer Hill Elementary School third-graders how they should make their dental floss hug the insides of each tooth and to move it up and down the side of the tooth to remove plaque. Pfc. Mark Tyson, another Dental Activity Soldier helping to teach good dental care looks on.

Faith, fun go together

Sophomore Ben Courts practices his hula dancing while hula-hooping at Club Beyond's kickoff party on post Aug. 8.

Post/Blackman



Post/Heronemus

Wetting a line

Matthew Lizzi (left) and Rachel Canuela fish in comfort under a lean-to their party erected to shed the continual rain that soaked the annual Earth Day Fishing Clinic April 24 at Moon Lake. Lizzi's father helps set up the pole his sister, Rhiannon, was using.

Reported in the Jan. 16 Post:

The Watoto Children's Choir performed a show of spiritual and joyous songs for the Fort Riley community Jan. 8, at Morris Hill Chapel.

The Watoto Children's Choir is comprised of young Ugandan children who are orphaned by the loss of one or both their parents.

As the war in Iraq continued, area elementary schools were educating students on the war and Iraq and offering support to children who had a parent deployed overseas.

Some teachers at Custer Hill Elementary School changed the clocks in their rooms to Iraqi time to help the students understand the cultural differences between Kansas and Iraq.

Morris Hill Elementary School brought in an author to help kids understand deployments. Sarah Jones, an author of "To Keep Me Safe," shared her book with the students.

Fort Riley Elementary School had student support groups that met once a week to help students who had questions or concerns about the war and their deployed parent.

Jefferson Elementary had a bulletin board called "Wall of Heroes" where students placed a picture of their deployed parent.

Reported in the Feb. 6 Post:

Pfc. Matt Young, a fueller with 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance), threw a pie into the face of 1st Sgt. Michael Mears Jan. 29, and he didn't get into trouble.

The 82nd Med. Co. Family Readiness Group hosted the pie-in-the-face auction during a hamburger and chili lunch in Hangar 853 for Soldiers and family members.

The \$400 raised by the auction will be used to host other family activities.

Reported in the Feb. 13 Post:

When the Junction City Little Theatre raised the curtain on its 282nd production Feb. 12, Fort Riley and the Army was represented with five actors among the cast members of "The Dining Room."

Reported in the Feb. 27 Post:

Just days after his 14th birthday, Fort Riley Middle School's newest county spelling bee champion was still grinning from ear to ear.

DeMarcus Hagewood, an eighth-grade student, won the 2004 Geary County Spelling Bee on Feb. 13 at Junction City Middle School.

Members of the Fort Riley Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club celebrated 50 years of improving life on the post during a grand celebration beginning at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27, at the U.S. Cavalry Museum.

Christian country singer Susie Luchsinger performed at Morris Hill Chapel on Fort Riley Feb. 20 in the first of a Christian concert and seminar series.

"We're doing the series to help Soldiers realize being spiritual is

not a problem," said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Daniel McClure, demobilization chaplain, U.S. Army Garrison.

Reported in the March 12 Post:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 937th Engineer Group, which returned from Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Feb. 21, commended members of their Family Readiness Group March 1 at Rally Point.

The award ceremony, which was scheduled to occur just before members of the unit signed out on block leave, also recognized members of the Junction City police force and fire department for sponsoring the group and sending it gifts while the Soldiers were overseas.

"The Cat in the Hat" came to play at Fort Riley Elementary School March 2, and helped the students there celebrate the 100th birthday of the late Dr. Seuss.

Reported in the March 26 Post:

Soldiers, Fort Riley employees and civilian guests gathered March 17 in King Field House to be reminded that prayer and religious faith have a place in today's Army.

Kansas City Chiefs running back Tony Richardson talked with Morris Hill Elementary School students March 16 about personal behavior and why it's important to be a role model to younger people.

Reported in the April 2 Post:

Fort Riley's Month of the Military Child expanded in 2004 with new ways to spread information promoting child wellness, said Carolyn Tolliver-Lee, with the post's Family Advocacy Program's social services.

Tolliver-Lee and her social services colleague, Billy J. May, worked with representatives of Geary County Unified School District 475 and the Early Childhood Family Network, to devise a month-long program of activities to promote prevention of child abuse.

Reported in the April 9 Post:

What started as a few words penned out of loneliness by a Fort Riley elementary student turned into a \$1,000 award and an appearance on NBC's "The Today Show."

Amber Tozier, a 10-year-old fifth-grader at Morris Hill Elementary, wrote an essay about her father, Staff Sgt. Scott Tozier, who had been deployed to Iraq since March 2003.

The American Red Cross chapter at Fort Riley honored its 2003 volunteers March 31 with lunch at the post commanding general's quarters and awards ranging from Volunteer of the Year to pins designating years of service.

Vickie Jurgensmeir accepted her Red Cross Volunteer of the Year award from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley. Jurgensmeir volunteered more than 240 hours of service to the chapter and served as the advisor to its

council.

Red Cross volunteers donated about 10,000 hours of service to Fort Riley during 2003, the local chapter reported.

Reported in the April 23 Post:

The Junction City High School's Jr. ROTC program competed April 3 against cadets from 16 schools in four states during the 21st annual Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet. The meet was hosted at Junction City High School.

The Blue Jay Battalion tied for first place in the unarmed regulation drill event with Bellevue East Team No. 1, said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Kennedy, Jr. ROTC senior instructor at Junction City High School.

Cadet Capt. Hedrick Cintron and Cadet Maj. Martin Delaney combined to win the dual drill with weapons event. Cadet Ernest Alanis won the individual drill with weapon, and Cintron placed fourth in that event.

Twenty-one senior noncommissioned officers stationed at Fort Riley judged the events, which began at 8 a.m. and continued through 4:30 p.m.

Reported in the April 23 Post:

Irwin Army Community Hospital's Labor and Delivery and Postpartum unit prepared to move from the third floor to the fifth floor of the hospital.

The move would accommodate renovation of the third floor into a new mother-baby unit and OB/GYN outpatient clinic.

Reported in the May 27 Post:

"There's more to being an MP than arresting people and handing out tickets," said Sgt. Kyle Smith, 924th Military Police Battalion Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers president.

Smith and 16 other Soldiers from the 924th MP Bn. volunteered to help at the Fort Riley Middle School track and field meet at Junction City High School as a way to help out in the community.

Reported in the June 11 Post:

Drivers passing by Fort Riley schools may have noticed bicyclists clad in highly visible black and yellow uniforms keeping an eye on the children. This is one of the many tasks assigned to the Military Police Bicycle Patrol.

"The purpose of the Bike Patrol is to interact with children and to be a visible presence in the community," explained Pfc. Shaun Spencer of the 300th Military Police Company.

Reported in the June 11 Post:

Rodeo games, puppets, arts and crafts and fellowship were all part of Fort Riley's Wild West Vacation Bible School Adventures June 8-11, at Morris Hill Chapel.

Children attending classes ranged from preschool age to 10 years old. During the four-day program, children participated in several classes and activities designed to reinforce Bible messages and elaborate on the week's theme.

Reported in the June 18 Post:

Fort Riley contributors exceeded this year's Army Emergency Relief campaign goal by more

than \$16,000.

Contributors gave \$76,474.59 to this year's campaign. Campaign coordinators set the goal at \$60,000 for the second straight year because many post Soldiers are deployed overseas.

Reported in the June 25 Post:

The students earned 11 master's degrees, 44 bachelor's degrees and 174 associate's degrees in various fields from six colleges and universities.

An honorary associate's degree was awarded posthumously to Sgt. Uday Singh, who was killed in Iraq Dec. 1, 2003. Singh took classes from Barton County Community College and had completed two-thirds of his degree before deploying.

Reported in the June 25 Post:

The 27 middle school students were part of the 6th annual Gang Resistance, Education and Training camp, or G.R.E.A.T., conducted on post June 14-18. Members of the Junction City Police Department, Fort Riley military police units and Geary County Unified School District 475 coordinated the camp for Fort Riley Middle School students.

Reported in the July 1 Post:

Country music recording star Mark Wills could have been napping in the Kansas afternoon heat June 24, but when he found out Fort Riley was a short trip down the road, visiting Soldiers at the Army's Warfighting Center took precedence.

Wills watched a large contingent of Soldiers in the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, practice June 24 for the brigade's change of command ceremony scheduled the next day.

Wills' father was stationed at Fort Riley with the 1st Infantry Division (Big Red One) in the 1970s after fighting in Vietnam.

Reported in the July 9 Post:

Fifty-two youngsters, 13 of them children of Fort Riley families, helped Junction City open its annual Sundown Salute celebration of Independence Day July 1, with a history lesson presented in a patriotic message, "We the People."

The Junction City Little Theatre's Summer Children's Theater group presented the musical during the Geary County Historical Society's annual Gala dinner and program in the Municipal Building.

Reported in the July 16 Post:

Shooting arrows, paddling canoes, riding horses and swimming made for an exceptional day of camp for 11 kids early this month.

The 7 to 12-year-olds participated in the Exceptional Family Member Program Summer Camp at Rock Springs 4-H Center July 6.

Reported in the July 23 Post:

After a third place finish last

Continued on Page 11

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Schools, churches play important roles

Continued from Page 10

year, Addictive Behavior rocked their way to the top at Battle of the Bands July 16 at Rally Point.

Some 180 people gathered to hear the six bands perform in the event sponsored by Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

Reported in the Aug. 6 Post:

Fort Riley military police and many post residents spent an evening together Aug. 1 on the grass of Cavalry Parade Field getting to know each other better.

The post's observance of law enforcement's National Night Out Against Crime included military police K-9 demonstrations, child fingerprinting, information on pet regulations and services, equipment displays, inflatable fun attractions, refreshments and a movie.

Reported in the Sept. 2 Post:

Nine acts showed off their talent, or lack of talent, Aug. 27 at Rally Point as contestants in a "Gong Show" revival hosted by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers on post.

Jonte Ross took home the first-place prize of a \$125 gift certificate by singing a cappella.

Reported in the Sept. 24 Post:

About 500 people went out for a night of family fun at Custer Hill Elementary School Sept. 17. Family Fun Night's goal was to



19th PAD/Cooke

The BOSS delivers

Lee McDermott is pleasantly surprised by her Elvis Valentine Sing-O-Gram Feb 11. Her 25-year-old son, Robert, sent her a message of love by requesting the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers' Elvis impersonator to sing "You are My Sunshine."

raise money for a new playground.

To help raise money, several classes made baskets filled with prizes for a raffle, including third grader Alicia Anderson and her fellow classmates.

"We put in pizza and stuff in there and then there's this air thingie, yeah, shrink-wrap around it," she said.

Several fifth-graders volunteered to be dunk tank victims, including A.J. Montesano.

Members of the 300th Military Police Company and MP Bike Patrol were on-hand to give out baseball cards, register bicycles, put bike riders through an obstacle course and showcase two Humvees.

Talent packed the rucksack that was the 2004 Army Soldier Show to overflowing Sept. 14 and 15. An appreciative audience stood, applauding continuously, as each of the cast members and perform-

ers introduced themselves before the final two numbers in the 90-minute show.

Bancroft Golding, a recent retiree living and working in Junction City, said after the show that he always attends the Soldier Show performances and this year's show was as great as all the previous ones he's seen.

Reported in the Oct. 1 Post:

Bargain hunters found just

about anything they needed -- or really didn't need -- Sept. 25 during the semi-annual post wide yard sale.

Shoppers invaded post housing areas early, even though the advertised opening time was 8 a.m. Anyone looking for really good buys on unique, useful or gift items seemed to believe that "the early bird gets the ... best buys," to paraphrase the old bro-mide.

Reported in the Oct. 7 Post:

Fort Riley community members showcased the post at the annual Open House and Apple Day Oct. 2.

An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people turned out to enjoy the various activities and food offered at the site.

Cavalry Parade Field was covered with historical displays, military vehicles, rides, demonstrations, concessions and vendors from organizations around post.

Reported in the Oct. 15 Post:

When second-grader Emily Stava decided to have 13 of her friends over for her birthday party, she didn't ask for presents. Instead, she had each friend bring a teddy bear for children whose parents have been killed while serving their country.

On Oct. 5, Emily and her parents, Doris and Steve, and sister, Kristen, drove from their home in Lenexa, Kan., to bring the bears to

Fort Riley.

Installation Chaplain Col. Kenneth Sampson accepted the bears on behalf of the families.

Before the curtains went up for William Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth" Oct. 6 at Barlow Theater, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's first performance a day earlier was to show 75 Fort Riley Middle School sixth-grade students an inside view of live stage performances.

"We wanted to show students what we do as a theater troupe," said Chris Mixon, an actor with the troupe touring military bases nationwide as part of a partnership between the National Endowment of the Arts and the Department of Defense.

Mixon and three cast members gave the school compact disks, bookmarkers, videotapes and other educational material to introduce Shakespeare's work to new audiences.

Reported in the Oct. 22 Post:

Fort Riley's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program received two Department of the Army awards at the group's annual conference in Alexandria, Va. Spc. Jason Dunlap, the Fort Riley organization's president, was named BOSS President of the Year.

Fort Riley Girls Scouts kicked off their year of planned activities

Continued on Page 12

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Families reap rewards throughout year

Continued from Page 11

with a Scout Olympics Day that featured a variety of timed races and contests.

More than 90 Scouts participated in the events held at the Scout Hut near Marshall Army Airfield.

Reported in the Oct. 29 Post:

Fort Riley community members gathered Oct. 22 to express their concerns with the installation.

Participants met in one of six groups and narrowed their concerns down to 17 total key issues. On Oct. 16, about 25 teens and six staff members met to generate ideas, and on Oct. 21-22, 47 adult delegates and 16 staff members met.

Issues included the lack of adequate family-oriented recreation facilities, bottleneck traffic at the gates, military records being hand-carried by Soldiers and family members and lack of sufficient chapel support in the community.

Other issues included a request for map kiosks at popular areas on post, no schoolbook fees for military children, better job-shadowing opportunities for high school students and redeploying parents for their children's high school graduations.

Reported in the Nov. 5 Post:

From backwards clothes and pajamas to a parade and balloon launching, Jefferson and Ware Elementary Schools celebrated Red Ribbon Week Oct. 25-29.

Students at Ware Elementary wore their pajamas to school in "Follow your dreams - Don't do drugs" day Oct. 26. They wore their clothes backward on "I turn my back to drugs" day Oct. 28.

Jefferson Elementary's highlights included wearing clothes inside out on "Don't let drugs turn you inside out" day Oct. 26 and a balloon launching Oct. 28.

Students released more than 330 balloons, each containing a message that Jefferson students do not do drugs. Anyone who finds the message is asked to send a message to the school's Web site, said Kim Andrews, school support monitor.

Voter turnout was estimated at well over 90 percent for one precinct on Fort Riley Nov. 2 as first-time voters made their picks for president.

According to Pat Olmstead, a family support monitor who assisted with the election, more than 600 students at Ware Elementary School cast their votes for the next president of the United States.

Three Geary County Unified School District 475 elementary schools, including one at Fort Riley, were named recipients of four Challenge Award certificates of merit in the 3rd Annual Challenge Award recognition program sponsored by the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force.

Ware Elementary School at Fort Riley was among three Geary County Unified School District 475 schools honored with Challenge Awards.

Ware received certificates in



Post/Hermemus

Post recognizes volunteer service

Fort Riley Volunteer of the Year Andrew Williams accepts recognition awards, gifts and applause April 12 in Barlow Theater after being named the Post Volunteer of the Year for 2004. Applauding his achievement are (from left) Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley; Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Richard Young; Col. John Simpson, garrison commander (rear); and Command Sgt. Maj. Gilbert Canuela, 24th Inf. Div. command sergeant major. Seventeen-year-old Victor Arias Jr. was named the post's first Youth Volunteer of the Year.

fourth-grade math and fifth-grade reading.

Reported in the Nov. 10 Post:

Fifty-three Family Readiness Group leaders at Fort Riley received awards Nov. 5 during the third annual Veterans and Military Appreciation Dinner and Dance sponsored by Junction City.

This year's event took place in the new Geary County Convention Center next to the Courtyard by Marriott motel. A city commissioner estimated that about 650 people attended the event.

Artistic talents of three Fort Riley Middle School sixth-graders earned them top places in the sixth annual Junction City Sundowners Lions Club poster contest at the school.

Heather Leavitt, 11, won first place. She is the daughter of Capt. Gary and Allison Leavitt.

Jacob Hildebrand, 11, won second place. He is the son of Marie and Sgt. Timothy Youngblood.

Mia Tetreault, 12, won third place. She is the daughter of Spt. Timothy and Julianna Tetreault.

Reported in the Nov. 19 Post:

The Fort Riley spouse of a Soldier wounded in Iraq knows firsthand that Army spouses could use some special support while dealing with the disruption and stress such a situation creates.

Patti Walker decided such a support group was needed the first time she visited her husband, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Walker, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he was recuperating from serious head wounds he received in Iraq.

With the backing of some key leaders in the Fort Riley community, the Walkers formed a core group that would work to provide

the kind of support spouses in similar situations would need.

Good Of Saint Nick and his 15 elves gathered at Building 261 Nov. 8, for a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch this year's 36th annual Operation Santa Claus at Fort Riley.

The annual effort collects toys and money to buy toys for needy children. Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan said Operation Santa Claus is a cooperative effort between Fort Riley, the Noncommissioned Officers Association and the Salvation Army.

Reported in the Nov. 24 Post:

School Age Services opened its doors Nov. 16 to parents of the 140 children enrolled in its programs.

"We wanted to show the parents the programs we offer and the new computer equipment we have," said School Age Services Director Ayanna Francis.

The computers, a scanner, a digital snapshot camera and a video camera came to Fort Riley through an Army effort to upgrade technology offered in child services programs, Francis said.

Reported in the Dec. 3 Post:

Two Fort Riley spouses received Random Acts of Kindness awards Nov. 29 during a ceremony in Manhattan's Triangle Park.

They were among other recipients, including three retirees who ended their Army careers at Fort Riley and a civilian employee at Fort Riley.

The Random Acts of Kindness awards are presented annually to individuals who have exhibited some act of kindness that helped neighbors or others in their communities.

Hill to Main Post during their ninth annual toy march. Sounds of holiday chants filled the air as about 400 Soldiers carried toys in their rucksacks and delivered them to the Operation Santa Claus Headquarters in Building 261.

The Soldiers, who were all wearing Santa hats, joined 80 students and 12 teachers from Morris Hill Elementary School during the march.

The teachers and third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students walked with the Soldiers from King Field House to the Operation Santa Claus Headquarters.

The Soldiers and students donated more than 550 toys valued at almost \$2,500.

Some 110 graduates received diplomas during Fort Riley's fall graduation ceremony Dec. 9 in King Field House.

In all, 198 students earned diplomas through the post's higher education programs.

Eight students received master's degrees, 41 earned bachelor's degrees and 149 students received associate's degrees in various fields from six colleges and universities.

Holiday spirits, laughter, singing and a lot of happy conversation filled Riley's Convention Center Dec. 7. Parents and children who are part of the Exceptional Family Member and New Parent Support programs at Fort Riley had gathered for a holiday party.

About 100 parents and 150 children attended the special party, according to a quick count by Betsy Young, who welcomed people at the ballroom door.

Laura McCauley, manager of the Fort Riley Exceptional Family Member Program, organized the party, complete with food for everyone and a present for each

child attending.

Reported in the Dec. 23 Post:

The Boy Scouts and Fort Riley have had a long-standing relationship. But that relationship is undergoing change. The reason: A settlement between the Department of Defense and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The settlement calls for all military sponsorship of Boy Scout units to cease.

The DoD has 60 days from the initial settlement on Nov. 15 to issue a statement to all military bases across the world making it clear that the Boy Scouts are not to be sponsored.

The statement will then be incorporated into a DOD directive within a year of its issuance. At that time, all military sponsorship of the Scouts is to end.

Russell Black, Scout executive for the Fort Riley and Junction City Boy Scouts said four Cub Scout packs and one troop on Fort Riley and one pack and one troop in Milford that have been sponsored by Fort Riley units will be looking for new sponsors as a result of the settlement.

Black said they will start their search for new sponsors in early January.

Second-graders at Morris Hill Elementary School on post learn from one of the state's best young teachers.

The state named Heather Douthitt one of 32 Horizon Award winners, and she will be recognized during a special luncheon in Topeka Feb. 11 during the Kansas Exemplary Educators Network state conference.

Douthitt was among 16 elementary school teachers in Kansas to earn the award.

Sixteen secondary school teachers also received the award.

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Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

A Post Special Edition: 2004 - The Year In Review

Friday, January 7, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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For fun, honor, glory:

While units and Soldiers played serious games against deadly opponents in Iraq during 2004, battles waged on athletic fields at Fort Riley for the gold, the trophy, the crown, the title – the bragging rights that come with victory.

MEDDAC dominated in several sports, but it had the luxury of counting on having players who wouldn't be missing practices or games because of training in the field or deployments.

Mobilized military policemen brought a lot of athletic talent and physical prowess to the Fort Riley athletic arenas, but coming up just short of taking the Pig Bowl trophy back home with them when they demobilized.

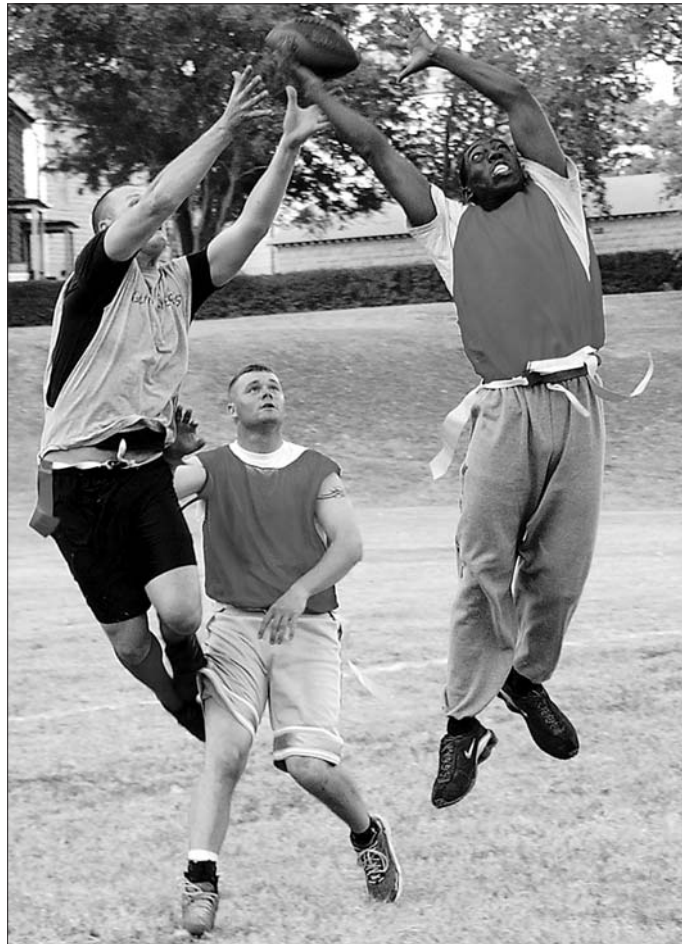
Several scheduled athletic events were dropped because deployments kept units from being able to field teams or because deployments depleted the number of Soldiers who would have otherwise competed in individual contests.

On the school scene, Fort Riley Middle School students participated in extensive sports programs, including volleyball, football, basketball and wrestling before the first school semester ended.



Post Photo

(Left) MEDDAC's Riley Yadon and John Hanes push back an attempted spike from PSB's Lurissa Kupchek during play in the first round of the double elimination Post Volleyball Tournament April 20.



Post/Blackmon

MP Nathan Holdbaugh (left) and Dreadnaught Carlos Cherry fight for the ball while Derek Popp looks on. Holdbaugh snagged the ball on the extra points attempt to add to the MP's 42-40 victory in Northern League play Oct. 5.



Post/Heronemus

USA MEDDAC player Todd Vento grimaces after hurting his knee on a play against 937th Engineers April 19. Trying to jump over Vento is Justin Fahrenholtz. Engineer Player Jose Villasmil (on the ground) attempts to get up after colliding with Vento. MEDDAC's Joseu Meza (behind Villasmil) and another Engineer player skirt the collision.



Photo/Blackmon

Runners start the 2-mile Prairie Run at Fort Riley July 24. The annual event included a 10-mile distance used to qualify post runners for the Army 10-Miler team that runs in Washington, D.C., during the annual convention of the Association of the U.S. Army.



Trooper Kaylynn Spriggs (left) and Manhattan Tornado player Abby Stitt fight for the ball during Fort Riley Middle School's final game of the season Nov. 30. The Troopers won, 34-25.

Post/Blackmon

You can find the Fort Riley Post online at www.riley.army.mil





Non-deployed unit teams battle for titles

Reported in the Feb. 20 Post:

Before the game Feb. 11, everyone in the Fort Riley Company-Level Basketball League was looking up at Touch of Grey in the standings.

The morning after, four teams with one loss each — TOG Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry and 6025th Garrison Support Unit — found themselves staring each other in the face for first place.

Reported in the March 12 Post:

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) held on in the final seconds of a thriller March 9 to win the Fort Riley company-level basketball championship 46-44 against HHC, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

The champs led the infantry team 25-18 after the first period and increased their lead to 33-23 before three minutes had lapsed in the second period.

Reported in the April 2 Post:

AR RAMADI, Iraq — One of the most anticipated events in America was the Super Bowl.

Camp Junction City football fans were no different than fans back home when it came to the JC Super Bowl on Devil's Field in Iraq.

The big game concluded the flag football season on March 21, with the 331st Signal Company



'Grab him!'

Fort Riley Middle School Trooper fullback Calvin Boston (42) strains for extra yardage against Manhattan Eisenhower defenders Sept. 30. Boston carried nine times for 31 yards in the eighth-grade Troopers' 14-12 home win over the Eagles.

defeating Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, 48-0.

Reported in the April 16 Post:

The 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, volleyball team emerged as battalion league champion after going undefeated against teams from USA MEDDAC and Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, in the final matches played April 13.

MEDDAC forfeited their first game because they could not

muster a team at 6 p.m., when play was scheduled to begin.

Given 10 minutes to come up with enough players to challenge the infantry, MEDDAC's Assistant Coach Erick Acevedo found five willing volunteers to fill in so they didn't have to forfeit again.

The second game of the match went quickly, ending with a 25-8 win for the infantry.

Reported in the April 30 Post:

The 1st Battalion, 41st

Infantry, dominated volleyball league play and ended with an undefeated season.

They also dominated the 2004 Fort Riley Post Volleyball Tournament April 20-21 at King Field House.

Reported in the May 14 Post:

A lot of people laughed when Craig Noda predicted USA MEDDAC would take the Fort Riley Battalion Level Soccer League championship and sweep the

championship tournament.

It wasn't easy, but MEDDAC ended up losing only two games, one to 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, and the other to the 15th Personnel Services Battalion.

That record put them on top of the league standings and they went undefeated in tournament play, claiming the tournament trophy just as Noda predicted.

Reported in the July 9 Post:

CAMP RAMADI, Iraq — On the heels of helping to make Iraq a sovereign nation, Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team took time to celebrate America's independence July 4.

The brigade, which supports the 1st Marine Division, hosted a softball tournament and barbecue-style lunch to commemorate Independence Day. The brigade invited Marines, Sailors and Airmen operating from Camp Ramadi to participate.

Reported in the July 30 Post:

Pouring rain and unseasonably cool temperatures did not keep runners from the annual 10-, five- and two-mile Prairie Runs July 24 at Fort Riley. Nearly 150 participants competed in the three races.

Luke Williams of Wayland, Mich., won the overall men's 10-mile race with a time of 55:16. Trisha Culbertson of Manhattan won the overall women's 10-mile race with a time of 62:05.

Kipchuba Rogers of Manhattan, took first place overall in the

men's five-mile race, finishing in 26:35. Fort Riley's Jody Weierholt won the women's overall five-mile title with a time of 29:22.

Ray Doffney of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) won the men's overall two-mile race with a time of 14:32. The overall female winner was Jocelyn Aguilar of Fort Riley, who ran the two-mile race in 16:49.

Reported in the Aug. 6 Post:

The 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, battalion level slow-pitch softball team wasn't about to lose another season title to 24th Infantry Division (Mech). It didn't.

The top two teams in the league fought for the title in a double header Aug. 1. To take the league title, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, needed one win; 24th Inf. Div. needed to win both games.

Neither the 100-plus degree temperature nor the defending champions were able to knock down the Dreadnaughts. The team took the first game and the champion's title, defeating 24th Inf. Div. 13-7.

Because 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., for a month, they will miss the post championships, Aug. 13-15.

Reported in the Aug. 27 Post:

Defending champions Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division

Continued on Page 15

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Troopers play hard

Continued from Page 14

(Mech), kept their company-level slow-pitch softball crown Aug. 21, defeating U.S. Army Medical Department Activity 18-16 in the post tournament finals.

Eighteen company-level teams fought for the title in the tournament Aug. 20-21. Ten of the 32 games scheduled resulted in forfeits.

Reported in the Oct. 15 Post:

Fort Riley Middle School eighth-grade football's 34-32 come-from-behind win Oct. 5 over Chapman Middle School may well be the greatest comeback in sport's history.

Outplayed for 30 minutes with little offensive success, the Troopers scored four touchdowns in 90 seconds to overcome a 32-6 deficit and win by two points,

improving its record to 4-3.

Chapman used a bruising ground game to control the clock and score 18 points in the first half.

With seven starters out for the game, Fort Riley's lone offensive success was Andy Birchmeier's 55-yard touchdown throw to Chris Toombs in the second quarter.

"I've never seen anything like it in my 17 years of football, at any level in any sport," Ellner said of the 90-second, 28-point barrage. "Teams don't practice how to get four TDs in a minute. The offensive line did a superb job of protecting Birchmeier in that final minute," Ellner said. "I couldn't be more proud of them. They never gave up."

Reported in the Oct. 29 Post:

The 342nd Military Police

Company dominated the 924th MP Battalion's football sports day Oct. 21. The Army Reserve unit from Columbus, Ohio, played more like the Big-10 Conference Buckeyes from Ohio State University than a collection of Army Reserve Soldiers to claim the Pig Bowl trophy.

The 342nd blitzed the 977th MP Co., 30-0, the 300th MP Co., 20-7 and the 523rd MP Detachment 24-0 to claim the Pig Bowl trophy in the double-elimination competition played on Cavalry Parade Field.

Reported in the Nov. 5 Post:

Fort Riley's Army 10-Miler team finished second in the civilian open mix category of the annual Association of the U.S. Army conference race in Washington, D.C., last month.

The team's time of 4:14:55 included the times for the top three male runners and top female runner.

This year's team of seven Soldiers ran the course more than four minutes faster than last year's team. An eighth runner, Jonathan Newlin of 977th Military Police Company, made an unscheduled trip to Iraq and could not run with the team in Washington, D.C.

Fort Riley's team wound up misplaced in categories. The team signed up for the military active duty mix category, but for some unknown reason wound up misclassified as a civilian open mixed entry.

The team's time would have placed Fort Riley in seventh place in the military active duty mix category.

Reported in the Nov. 10 Post:

U.S. Army Medical Department notched another win on their sports pistol Nov. 8, defeating the 342nd Military Police Company 14-13 to claim the post's flag football crown.

The Soldier Medics came from behind in the last quarter to win the title against a team they hadn't played before and one that just recently won the 924th Military Police Battalion's Pig Bowl trophy in the same sport.



Post/Blackman

Softball – a dirty game

Company A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, pitcher Travis Potter dives head first for third base as the ball gets away from Edgar Rodrigues of 10th ASOS. The Airmen won 11-9 in company league play June 22.

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